

# PETITION.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly, in Provincial Parliament assembled:

THE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED EMPLOYÉS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE PROVINCE,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That your petitioners have seen certain Resolutions upon which it is proposed to found a Bill for the creation of a fund to provide superannuation allowances to old and disabled public servants.

That the principle upon which this fund is proposed to be sustained, viz., by deductions from the salaries of those who are hereafter to participate in its benefits, is one to which your petitioners cannot reasonably object; they would however respectfully beg leave to urge on your Honorable House the propriety of altering the details of the measure in some of its provisions, which must otherwise operate unequally and unfairly on your petitioners.

That the first of these provisions to which your petitioners beg leave to advert, is the adoption of *three different rates of deductions*. Your petitioners have sought in vain to discover upon what principle this diversity of rate is based. By it, a person in receipt of a salary of £100, would pay £2 per annum for a prospective pension of a certain proportion of that salary, whilst the recipient of £500 would be required to pay £6 per annum, upon each £100, for a pension of a precisely similar proportionate rate.

They would respectfully urge upon your Honorable House to modify an arrangement that would press so heavily on one or two classes of public servants, and to substitute therefor the principle adopted by the Imperial Parliament for a like purpose.

That upon the initiation of the Superannuation Fund in England, it was found most difficult to ascertain what rate of deduction would suffice to meet the calls upon that Fund, and in the absence of any data upon which to base an estimate, it was decided that the contribution should be fixed at one-half of the rate of the Income Tax, then recently discontinued, and thus an *arbitrary* rate of five per cent. was established, whilst the recipients of salaries of £100 and under, who, having been *exempt* from the operation of the Income Tax, had *not benefitted* by its removal, were admitted to the advantages of this Fund at half the rate charged upon higher salaries; hence the diversity of rate, in England.

That a rate of five per cent. in England, where interest on investments seldom exceeds three per cent., would, as proved by eminent actuaries, have yielded an amount exceeding the calls upon the fund, had that fund been so invested from time to time. That the rate of interest in this Province being six per cent., your petitioners believe that an uniform deduction of two and a half per cent. would produce the like result. That should it however be thought desirable to adopt the English rule of reducing the rate upon small salaries, your petitioners venture to suggest that two per cent. on salaries of £125 and under, and three per cent. on *all* over that amount, would not be unfair or insufficient.

That the provision for widows, your Petitioners humbly submit, is by the said resolutions so inadequate, that it must necessarily compel each person from his diminished means, to make other arrangements, either by life assurance or otherwise, for that object, whilst the charge on the fund would not be less burdensome. In place of this provision, your petitioners would humbly suggest a gratuity of one year's salary, at the rate received by the deceased during his incumbency, to be paid to his widow or to such members of his family as were dependent on him for support.

They would also humbly submit the justice of permitting any person on his retirement from the service before the period at which he could claim a pension, to receive back some portion of the amount of his contributions.

The provision in the 8th Resolution, requiring an officer to have been for a period of three years in the enjoyment of an increased rate of salary to entitle him to a retiring allowance based upon such rate, is for obvious reasons, your petitioners submit unjust, and is contrary to the practice daily followed in the Imperial service where promotion in rank and retirement upon half-pay of such higher rank are very frequently simultaneous.

In conclusion, your petitioners submit that no charges should be placed upon this fund but such as grow legitimately out of it, without an adequate provision be made for such exceptional cases, and that all payments,

whether to widows or others, under the provisions of the proposed Superannuation Act, should be claimable as a matter of right, and made independent of contingencies of any description.

The above suggestions your petitioners respectfully submit to your Honorable House in the hope that the details of the Bill may be modified in accordance therewith, or in such other way as to the wisdom of your Honorable House may appear best calculated to render the measure as beneficial to the public servants as they feel confident it was designed to be.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Toronto, 9th April, 1859.

E. Parent,  
T. Dufort,  
G. C. Reiffenstein,  
Henry E. Steele,  
C. W. Shay,  
J. F. Pellant,  
R. S. M. Bouchette,  
Thos. Worthington,  
J. R. Audy,  
Thos. P. Robarts,  
E. A. Maillene,  
Clarke Ross,  
J. W. Peachy,  
H. H. Duffill,  
Lucius O'Brien,  
John Drysdale,  
Fred. Banister,  
Arthur J. Taylor,  
William Hutton,  
T. Douglas Harington,  
D. W. Macdonell,  
G. Powell,  
Thos. Ross,  
W. H. Jones,  
H. R. Glackmeyer,  
Chs. J. Birch,  
G. S. Bertrand,  
Norris Godard,  
T. G. Scott,  
Chd. Cary,  
W. F. Collins,  
Thos. Cruse,  
Thomas D. Tims,  
Andrew Russell,  
E. A. Genéreux,  
W. Ford,  
L. D. Lemoine,

Joseph Bouchette,  
G. G. Dunlevie,  
W. H. Lee,  
W. A. Himsworth,  
Moore A. Higgins,  
J. O. Côté,  
Thos. Burn,  
William Hedge,  
F. Braun,  
John Jos. Prendergast,  
F. T. Roche,  
John Innes,  
C. T. Walcott,  
A. A. Vanfelson,  
J. Alley,  
John Tolmie,  
J. V. Gale,  
J. C. Tarbutt,  
A. Kirkwood,  
Arthur Dale,  
F. A. Hall,  
F. Chassé,  
S. P. Bauset,  
D. A. Grant,  
John Morphy,  
E. Campbell,  
N. F. Laurent,  
P. De Guise,  
A. J. Cambie,  
D. McLeod,  
E. L. Montizambert,  
G. W. Wicksteed,  
Alfred Todd,  
Thos. Vaux,  
Chs. Langevin,  
Wm. B. Lindsay, junr.  
H. Poetter,

E. A. Meredith,  
Alpheus Todd,  
Wm. Fanning,  
Eng. Th. Dorion,  
J. F. Gingras,  
Wm. Wilson,  
F. X. Blanchet,  
J. F. Taylor,  
Fennings Taylor,  
W. Anstruther Maingy,  
A. Patrick,  
Frank Badgley,  
J. W. Harper,  
C. W. Heath,  
J. Baine,  
Felix Hamel,  
J. F. N. Bonneville,  
Henry Jackson,  
J. A. Kavanagh,  
Chs. McCarthy,  
John L. E. Ross,  
T. Patrick,  
P. E. Gagnon,  
G. M. Muir,  
Pierre Rivet,  
Henry Hartney,  
H. B. Stuart,  
J. H. T. Blais,  
Ed. Dénéchaud,  
William Spink,  
J. P. Leprohon,  
A. G. Lajoie,  
Aug. Laperrière,  
Ol. Vallerand,  
J. E. Doucet,  
A. A. Boucher.